

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 5

Prayer

Prayer

The objective is the goal or main teaching point of this week's study. If you convey one thing to your players, make it this.

Read this passage aloud to the kids, as it will be the focus of this week's study. Each week's memory verse will be in bold.

Our lessons for our older age groups are designed to be more discussion-based. This section is for the coach to read ahead of time so that he/she understands the goal of the discussion and is able to direct the conversation.

Objective This lesson will encourage the kids to pray and look at Christ's model in the Lord's Prayer.

Scripture Passage:

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." - Matthew 6:9-13

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." - Matthew 7:7 (Memory Verse)

Coaches Guide

Last week, we looked at one of the hardest commands in Scripture: to love our enemies. In comparison, Jesus' command here to pray is much easier. Yet for many Christians, prayer is not a major part of their lives.

In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus models prayer for us. He is not telling us to always use these exact words, but to follow His pattern of prayer. This prayer includes worship and praise, asking for provision, seeking and giving forgiveness, a request for deliverance from temptation, and then finishes with more praise. Not every prayer we pray needs to have all of these elements, but our prayer lives should include each of these things.

Then in Matthew 7:7, Jesus makes a promise about prayer: when we go to God in prayer (ask, seek, knock), He will respond. He will give us what we need, we will find an answer, and doors will be opened for us. That doesn't mean that God will always give us exactly what we want, when we ask for it. Sometimes God's answer is yes, other times it's no, and then there are times when God wants us to wait. When God doesn't answer the way we hoped, it's not because He didn't hear us, doesn't care, or has failed us. Rather, God knows more than we do. His answer is always what's best for us, even if it's not what we asked.

Some people don't pray because they don't think prayer works. Others don't make prayer a priority and let other things (school, activities, work, friends, etc.) get in the way. All of us can work on developing better habits to make prayer a bigger part of our lives.

Team discussion gives questions to ask your team in order to discuss today's topic. Use the information from the coaches guide to steer the conversation toward the biblical truth.

"On the Court" gives some in-game situations where today's lesson can be applied, while "Off the Court" gives examples from everyday life. Encourage them to do the things you listed during the game today.

These are some final notes/goals to accomplish this week. These are not meant to be read, but are instructions for the coach.

Team Discussion

1. How often do you pray? What role does prayer play in your life? What makes prayer difficult for you or keeps you from praying more?
2. What does Jesus pray for in Matthew 6:9-13? What are some things that stick out to you about the way Jesus prays? How is this prayer similar or different to the way you pray?
3. What does Matthew 7:7 mean by telling us to ask, seek, and knock? What is Jesus promising here?
4. When we pray, do we always get what we want, when we ask for it? Why do you think God doesn't always answer us in the way we ask?
5. What are some ways that you can develop better prayer habits and make prayer a bigger part of your life?

On the Court

- Take advantage of the opportunities this league offers to pray together as a team.
- During the week, pray for your teammates by name. If any of them have prayer requests, remember to pray for them.
- Prayer isn't just about asking for things. If you enjoy basketball, pray to God and thank Him for giving you the opportunity to play.

Off the Court

- Prayer isn't just for church or before meals. Try to spend time alone in prayer every day, even if it's only a few minutes.
- If there is something you've been praying for and God hasn't answered it yet, keep praying. Ask, seek, and knock, and the Lord will answer.
- Ask your friends if they have needs you can pray for—and then remember to pray for them!

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 5:44, "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Matthew 7:7 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Put today's lesson into practice by taking prayer requests and spending extra time in prayer this week.